

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11361 121451Z

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OREP (DRINAN, ROBERT F), PFOR, CVIS, UR, US

SUBJ: TRAVEL BY CONGRESSMAN DRINAN AND GROUP

REF: A. STATE 188993 B. STATE 189373

1. WE CALLED LOMOVTSSEV (USA DIVISION) MORNING AUGUST 12. LOMOVTSSEV INDICATED HE AWARE OF THE CASE. HIS STORY IS THAT SOVEMB WASHINGTON HAD ISSUED AN OFFICIAL VISA TO DRINAN "IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT." IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD REQUESTED THAT DRINAN'S VISA REQUEST BE BROKEN OUT FROM THE OTHERS OF THE GROUP AND ISSUED SEPARATELY. LOMOVTSSEV SAID THAT INTOURIST, HANDLING THE REMAINDER OF THE GROUP AS A STRICTLY TOURIST OPERATION, HAD DETERMINED THAT THERE WAS INDEED NO POSSIBLE ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE. VISAS WERE, THEREFORE, DECLINED. LOMOVTSSEV ADDED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT DRINAN WOULD BE STAYING IN AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL QUARTERS.

2. EMBOFF SAID THAT LOMOVTSSEV'S EXPLANATION DID NOT SQUARE WITH REPORTS EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED CONCERNING HISTORY OF VISA APPLICATIONS OF DRINAN AND REMAINDER OF PARTY. HE POINTED OUT THAT IN ANY
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 11361 121451Z

CASE IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE SHOULD A MEMBER OF THE

U.S. CONGRESS FIND IT NECESSARY TO CANCEL HIS TRIP.
EMBOFF SAID THAT IT SEEMED THAT THE BEST SOLUTION FOR
ALL SIDES WOULD BE TO SECURE VISA ISSUANCE NOW AND
WORRY ONLY LATER ABOUT WHERE AND HOW CASE MAY HAVE GONE
WRONG. LOMOVTSSEV PROFESSED AGREEMENT WITH THIS LINE
AND SAID THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY CALL THE CHIEF
OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION OF INTOURIST. HE SAID HE
UNDERSTOOD OUR POINT. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE
COULD GIVE US NO GUARANTEE THAT INTOURIST WOULD BE
ABLE TO SCRAPE UP NECESSARY ACCOMMODATIONS.

3. SIMILAR DEMARCHE MADE TO UVAROV OF INTOURIST
ELICITED RESPONSE EXACTLY ALONG LINES THAT MADE BY
LOMOVTSSEV, I.E., THAT SOVIETS ARE UNWILLING "FOR
COMMERCIAL REASONS" TO GIVE VISAS TO OTHER MEMBERS
OF DRINAN GROUP, AND THAT VISA ISSUANCE TO THE
CONGRESSMAN WAS BASED ON THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT HE
COMING HERE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS AND WOULD BE
LODGED BY THE EMBASSY.
STOESSEL

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